Shi Pong Lee

ESL 2010

Tim Conrad

Do you think the mobile telephone provide human with a better life?

Whenever we speak of the term ’modern communication’, what immediately comes to our mind will probably be the rapid development of mobile phones. Nowadays, the keen commercial advertisement race of different telecom companies tells the fact that the local telecom market is nearly saturated. Having a mobile phone is very usual to have, and even some primary students have one in their pockets. However, this great invention is to save our time and provide us with convenience, has somehow considered as an unnecessary and time-wasting tool. Some may even regard phones as the most annoying device that has ever appeared in the history of invention. Here I will explain the reason below.

First of all, it is a fact that the mobile phone has its benefit. It made communication becomes easy. No matter what place you are living, once the mobile phone is connected to internet, you can directly call your friends from the other side of the Earth. Furthermore, a mobile phone can help you during emergency situation. Think about if someone goes hiking without mobile phone and get lost at night. He might have a chance of getting hungry, or being attacked by animals. However, those hikers with mobile phone can get access to GPS system to check their location, also they can use light for guiding. In the research paper by Jonas and Urban, they have proved that ‘The analysis of the incidents shows examples of three patterns of interactions in organizing a response network where the mobile phone had a fundamental role.’(1) Even it comes to the worse case, they can call for emergency and firemen will come rescue them. Mobile phone is similar to a treasure bag, with a charger and power bank, it seems to be a must for everyone in their daily life.

Mobile phones are annoying like some of our parents. Undoubtedly, the term’ mobile phone’ means that one can use it no matter where and when and it has a high mobility that can bring it along everywhere. But on the other side, mobile phone is so annoying that it interferes people’s freedom. For most of the time, we are disturbed by the irritating alarming tone. It has even reached an unbearable situation that you can even find some people talking or using their phones in the cinema. These selfish people ignore others’ freedom and do whatever they want to do. Although there are warnings telling the audience to switch off their mobile phone, most of the people still put other’s welfare at risk. Travelling on the MTR, especially in a crowded place like Hong Kong, many people have experienced how terrible the ringing frequency is and how jarring the ringing volume is. The situation is getting worse as teachers find it disgusting to hear ‘Ling-ling’ when they are teaching. It disturbs teaching and distracts student’s attention. For example, the Orchestra conductor of Weber State University, Dr Degalvez never allow students to take out the mobile phones, even some players don’t have to play in some specific piece, some players are easily distracted by what others do, thus affecting the quality of the Orchestra rehearsal. Mobile phones are supposed to be used for communication only, but not a termination of enjoyment, or not depriving other’s freedom at work or school.

Additionally, mobile phones are definitely unnecessary in our daily lives. With the great invention of telephone, it facilitates interaction and narrows the distance between people. Nowadays messages are no longer carried by animals, but can be easily be delivered with a wire which carries information and sound from one place to another. It is easy to find one in every household and it becomes a very useful device in our daily lives. However, some people like to have more convenience in a way that they need a portable phone which is having the similar functions as a household telephone. IT is unnecessary that, firstly, the application and coverage of telephones in Office, Street or homes are so wide that we are utterly not difficult to use cable phones whenever we are. Secondly, according to a book, it mentioned that ‘We use them to change jokes, to flirt, and to tell one another the latest gossip. We use mobile voice when we want to hear one another talk… finally We increasingly use mobile social networking sites to interact with several other friends …indeed, research has shown that this is the preponderance of interaction.’(2) The content of most of our conversation is mainly gossips, chats or other unnecessary topics, whereas the ranking for business purposes and for necessary communication are out of the first three. It showed that mobile phone, especially the smart phone, isn’t a necessity for people to keep it as important as a wallet.

In the third place, using mobile phones is entirely time consuming. Mobile phones are becoming so popular that people are eager to change their phone models regularly in order to be fashionable. When the new Iphone is invented, many ‘apple fans’ will turn into a crazy mode, waiting in a long line for hours to buy. They change and sell their phones frequently every year, enjoy being the slave of mobile phones. Input of information such as contact lists is a nightmare. In order to save the monthly payment, many would use two or even more SM card- the digital chips that each fixes a telephone number. Changing SIM cards is already a trouble thing to do. Time would be further wasted once we carelessly handle the diverting. Pursuit of different ringing tones and different colors of shells further occupy much time of ours. Telephones should be used for communication and it has nothing much to do with fashion. It is ironic that the time we save from using portable phones seems to be much less than we spend on using them.

Undeniably, modern communication has its own advantages, it brings a lot of convenience to people and facilitates business and trade in an easy way. However, most of the people are misusing this kind of communication and making it totally annoying, unnecessary and time wasting. Should all of us think about how we communicate with others? Or should we consider other’s feeling when we use mobile phones? It is hoped that we can treasure all inventions in the world and use them in the most effective and efficient way, so that it can give a positive influence to human beings.

Reference:

1.Jonas Landgren, Urban Nulden

2007 A study of Emergency Response Work: Patterns of Mobile Phone Interaction, San Jose, CA, USA

<http://delivery.acm.org/10.1145/1250000/1240824/p1323-landgren.pdf?ip=137.190.131.99&id=1240824&acc=ACTIVE%20SERVICE&key=B63ACEF81C6334F5%2E0C7B12923B4CC340%2E4D4702B0C3E38B35%2E4D4702B0C3E38B35&CFID=777227599&CFTOKEN=89225687&__acm__=1461735408_2ec340b2d7af02fa6042c0557bf9cae7>

2.Jason Farman

2016, Foundations of mobile media studies: Essential texts on the formation of a Field: Routledge P.26

[https://books.google.com/books?id=fmH-CgAAQBAJ&pg=PA25&lpg=PA25&dq=using+mobile+phone+gossip+research&source=bl&ots=dL17qVqhUM&sig=aleNWhElw0CKC4et9iQKu4SMapY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjYscWQx63MAhVS32MKHQwkBgYQ6AEIPzAF#v=onepage&q=using%20mobile%20phone%20gossip%20research&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=fmH-CgAAQBAJ&pg=PA25&lpg=PA25&dq=using+mobile+phone+gossip+research&source=bl&ots=dL17qVqhUM&sig=aleNWhElw0CKC4et9iQKu4SMapY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjYscWQx63MAhVS32MKHQwkBgYQ6AEIPzAF%23v=onepage&q=using%20mobile%20phone%20gossip%20research&f=false)